

*Guardian*  
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## Bettaney completes his defence

Michael Bettaney spent all yesterday in the witness box at the Old Bailey giving his defence to 10 spying charges.

All of it was heard in camera, and no other witnesses gave evidence for the defence.

After the 33-year-old MI5 officer finished his evidence and returned to the dock, the defence case closed.

Final speeches by the Attorney-General, Sir Michael Ha-

vers, for the prosecution, and Mr Bettaney's counsel, Mr Michael Mansfield will start today.

The jury is expected to retire on Monday or Tuesday after the summing-up by the Lord Chief Justice, Lord Lane. The case is expected to finish earlier than scheduled because of the brevity of the evidence.

All of the evidence was given in secret since a short prosecution opening in public by Sir

Michael on Tuesday, and the press and public are expected to be banned from the court until the verdicts.

Mr Bettaney, of Coulsdon, Surrey, denies the charges against him brought under the Official Secrets Act.

It is alleged he offered to spy for Russia while a British intelligence officer, but his intricate plans to set up "drops" for classified information met with no response.